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PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

JACQUELINE SCHLICK
STAFF WRITER

The Pride of the South has been a part of the Rebel experience since 1928, when the group consisted of only 29 members and the SEC was nonexistent. The band used instruments, uniforms and equipment donated by the National Guard and didn't see its own fully outfitted uniforms until six years later. These tight resources and growing pains were treated like trivial details as the Rebel band rose to the occasion and earned its rightful place in the production that is Ole Miss football. Changes were abundant in the band's evolution. The band has been led by 10 different directors over the span of its 89 years, and fan-favorite music like "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and "Boogie Down" of the 1970s gave way to more contemporary classics like "Sail" and the timeless "Sweet Caroline." Its placement in the stands has moved to every end zone and corner, following the student section as closely as possible and being piped throughout the stadium as technology allowed. Whereas the field show in the 1930s was based on military marches, it's now a more elaborate series of sets traveling across the field. The numbers have steadily increased from a start of 29 members to the ensemble's highest of 315 in 2014.

SEE **BAND** PAGE 11

OPD recommends new laws for Square

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month, Oxford Police Department Chief Joey East recommended new city ordinance changes to the Board of Aldermen about the Oxford Square. East introduced plans to designate the Square as a special "Downtown District." The district would have different laws from the rest of the city to make the Square safer at night. The proposed district's boundaries would stretch from 14th Street to Ninth Street and from University Avenue to Jefferson Avenue, encompassing the area where most college students and visitors go during the weekend. "It could be called the Downtown District, or call it Entertainment District or the Historic District," East said. "But having a separate district would allow us to do things differently in the downtown area than in other parts of the city." City attorney Pope Mallette said he "thinks we can do this" by modeling a Downtown District off of the French Quarter that is considered separate from the city of New Orleans. The biggest change would be extending hours of operations of bars so people aren't exiting the bars into the street all at once. Bars currently close at midnight Monday through Wednesday, 1 a.m. on Thursday and Friday, midnight on Saturdays and at 9 p.m. on Sundays. The only exception to this rule is Saturdays when there is a home football game and bar hours are extended to 1 a.m. East's proposal includes changing the hours for closing time to 1 a.m. on Monday through Saturday and leaving the 9 p.m. closing time for Sunday to make the hours more consistent. "I think this a great idea," Scott Caradine, owner of Proud Larry's, said. "We can sell more alcohol, but it's also great for safety, so everyone isn't going out the door all at once." Caradine said he has not met with OPD but knows several bar owners who have, and he heard it was a productive meeting. Although the board has not formally discussed or debated this proposition in detail, Jason Bailey, Ward 6 alderman, had an exchange with Oxford Mayor Robyn Tannehill during a discussion about extending the bar hours by an hour. "I don't think we're taking care of our issue. I think we're pushing it back," Bailey said. "People are going to drink and drink, and also, you're going to have another mass exit. ... I think it's an hour too short." Tannehill responded, saying she didn't think "you could ask bars to stay open for two hours without selling alcohol" but that it was Bailey's choice to ask owners to do that. East also proposed ideas like improved security camera requirements, special permit requirements, driver's license scanners to prevent underage drinking and a designated area for all taxis and Ubers to pick up riders.

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COLUMN

Gun debate should remain honest, logical



MATTHEW DEAN
STAFF COLUMNIST

In the wake of a devastating mass shooting in Las Vegas, the question of gun control is being brought up again. And, to be fair, it is not a bad question. I am very pro-Second Amendment, but that does not mean that I do not believe in any forms of restriction of what can or can't be owned. I understand the controversy and why some people are uncomfortable around guns. There are honest arguments for taking a second look at certain things.

My problem, however, comes from the people clamoring against legal gun ownership in dishonest ways.

In one very popular example, late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel took nine minutes out of his poor audience's one and only life to deliver a bizarre rant against gun ownership.

Starting with crocodile tears and politely paying tribute to the victims, he soon skipped down a yellow brick road of delusional political tirade against legal gun ownership. He attempted to claim that his monologue was not about gun control but about "common sense."

Hopefully anyone with common sense could see past his shenanigans. By attempting to guilt you into believing it is about the victims, Kimmel makes any dissent seem like a heartless eye-roll to human suffering. I am sure that Kimmel was totally, definitely not trying to influence his viewers toward a political stance with his backdrop of Republicans who decided against governments manhandling gun show sales.

Maybe it's because, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, less than 2 percent of convicted criminals bought guns at shows or flea markets in 1997, and gun violence has decreased

since that time, according to Pew Research.

Sure, there's a possibility that more guns from these purchases are being used in crimes, but if that were the case, celebrity saviors like Kimmel would surely let us know for the sake of our own safety.

Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives law allows that these gun sellers can deny sales to individuals to whom they may feel uncomfortable selling. With a number as low as 2 percent, I would say these guys have done a pretty good job judging.

But no, the individual can never be trusted. Let's hand it over to the government. I'm sure it'll do a good job preventing arms trafficking. Ask Eric Holder, if you don't believe me.

Of course, I cannot bow out of this article and let CNN off the hook. Maybe you've seen its animated demonstration of what a bump stock is, but in case you missed it, I can tell you: There's a silencer, a scope and even a grenade launcher. Unfortunately, no bump stock.

But it did just have the gun animated to show its stock ad-

justing for length. Some would yell "Fake news!" but I believe it was probably these pesky Russians again. I'm sure there's no agenda there, either.

The Second Amendment states, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." It does not say "shall not be infringed, unless you guys start shooting each other." Anyone claiming that our founding fathers lacked the foresight to understand that technology develops and the Second Amendment was meant to apply to muskets is being intellectually dishonest. Unless these people are Time Lords, I doubt they know that for a fact.

Is there room for a logical debate about what constitutes a firearm that should be legally owned? Of course, and having this debate after a tragedy is perfectly reasonable. But there's no room in that debate for dishonesty or illogical, emotionally charged decisions.

Matthew Dean is a senior criminal justice major from Possumneck.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Same-sex attraction is not a sin



TRIPP BOND
STAFF COLUMNIST

Recently, Mississippi HB 1523 went into effect. It has brought no small amount of both praise and disgust. Personally, I know many LGBTQ individuals on campus who were shocked, hurt and troubled by its passing.

With such troublesome news for our LGBTQ friends, it is understandable that they may be fearful of heteronormative evangelicals. As such, I believe it is important that we Christians on campus seriously think about how we are going to comfort, instead of emotionally abuse, our friends.

Part of that is, I feel, a need to reevaluate sexual attraction from a biblical and logical standpoint. Sexual attraction is something all of us have had to experience since puberty. For most of us, the attraction is heterosexual, and we go about our daily lives being “normal.”

However, for some people, their experience does not mirror this. Instead, they have an attraction for the same sex. Often, these people are shunned by their family, their friends and society at large for not being “normal,” and for going against the assumed default of human nature. But what if that assumed default is wrong?

Let’s go back, way back, to the Garden of Eden. Here, we see God create humanity, “... so God made man in his image, male and female he created them.” In the days before the fall of man, the universe was in its perfect, default state in which God created it. Everything was the way it was intended to be, including sexual attraction.

However, that attraction was not a heterosexual attraction. Instead, it was a hetero-monogamous attraction. What this means is that each person had sexual attraction only toward his or her spouse of the opposite sex — no one else.

So, what’s my point? That heterosexuality, having a potential sexual desire for all members of the opposite sex, is not the ideal sexuality and instead is a product of sin and the fall of man. Being straight is not the default orientation, and it should not be viewed as normal.

As a straight man, I can state that I find most women to be quite sexually attractive, and I’m sure the inverse is true. Since my attraction is not only for whomever my wife may be, this is something that is broken and a product of the fall of man.

Now, is it a sin to be heterosexual? No, it is not. Straight people did not choose to be so; using this logic, we can firmly assert, then, that being gay or lesbian is not a sin, either. Gay and lesbian people experience same-sex attraction for the same reason straight people experience heterosexual attraction: We live in a fallen world where the default of hetero-monogamous attraction is inherently missing from the equation.

Many conservatives try to assert that being gay is a choice. My conservative friends, did you choose to be straight, which is an orientation deviating from God’s norm? I very much doubt it. Why, then, assert that our gay and lesbian friends choose to have a same-sex attraction when you did not choose your orientation?

Furthermore, why would someone choose to identify with something that, tragically, he or she knows will only bring bigoted persecution against him or her from family, friends and society? It is illogical to say that gay and lesbian people choose to experience same-sex attraction.

That said, there are choices to be made on both sides. If we are to take the Scriptures seriously, then choosing to engage in heterosexual relations, as opposed to hetero-monogamous sexual relations with your spouse, is a sin. The same is true for gay and lesbian sexual relations. Being gay or being straight is not a sin; what is a sin is engaging in sex that deviates from the “Edenic Default,” whether it be heterosexual or same-sex.

There is one more choice to be made, especially by heterosexual, conservative Christians. That

choice is for us to stop caricaturing our fellow man and come together in love so that we may better understand one another and form deep relationships built on this love.

Three caveats:

I am not trying to boil this issue down into one opinion article. I understand and appreciate the gravity of this discussion, and I hate when people make some statement and then claim that can sum up everything to do with this complex issue. In fact, we should stop calling it an issue; these are real, flesh and blood human beings we are talking about here and not some theological problem to quickly sweep under the rug. I believe the only resolution to the problems both sides are facing is to live in that tension of grace and truth known as love, in beautifully messy relationships.

Please do not think God sat down and wrote a list of arbitrary rules he wants humanity to follow, like “Don’t have gay or extramarital straight sex.” Instead, look at him as a master inventor whose creations were made to act in a certain way but have broken themselves, and he is trying to lovingly piece them back to how they were created to be. The story of the entire Scriptures is that of an artist trying to restore his art back to its perfect default after a stain appeared on his creations.

I did not mention people of bisexual or other orientations in this article; however, I feel the things said may apply to them, as well.

Tripp Bond is a sophomore history major from Meridian.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In her recent column for The Daily Mississippian, Ms. Jaz Brisack panned Mississippi’s HB 1523 as “a violation of human rights and dignity” that will expose to discrimination “anyone who does not adhere to a heteronormative and evangelical Christian lifestyle” (although the bill explicitly applies to other religions, as well, such as Islam or Judaism). Several marginalized groups in particular are listed.

Ms. Brisack calls the bill a “victory for alt-right, regressive hate groups, like the state legislature, and their ring leaders, like the governor.”

Her argument is fundamentally flawed for two reasons.

First, HB 1523 does not, as she claims, allow for discrimination in the issuance of marriage licenses and adoption rights. The bill itself states nine times that “the state government shall not take any discriminatory action” against someone for making his own choices, regardless of his “religious affiliation or lack thereof” (§9 (3)(a)).

As such, state officials are allowed to “seek recusal” from their positions of authority over groups conflicting with their beliefs, as long as they provide sufficient prior notice (§3 (8)(a)) and ensure that services are “not impeded or delayed as a result of any recusal” (§3 (8)(a)).

Thus, HB 1523 guarantees that all marginalized groups — not just Christians — will receive state services free from religious discrimination. Some victory for the alt-right.

Secondly, Ms. Brisack recommends people boycott various businesses in order to combat the discrimination potentially engendered by this bill. This itself amounts to discrimination and undermines her own message that such an act is by nature harmful to society and inspired by bigotry, or that it can be defeated only through government intervention. Commerce, not government jackboots, should be the lingua franca of a capitalist society.

Religious freedom and the freedom of expression are not mutually exclusive. This bill makes sure of that.

Jonathan Wiggins is a senior pharmacy major from DeKalb.



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From nurse to breast cancer patient:

Local woman celebrates 40 years of service

OLIVIA MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

It's the day before she's set to receive a pin for 40 years of service in the Baptist Memorial Hospital system, and Wanda Dent has the day off — sort of.

She's got a 24-year-old starting chemotherapy today, a 65-year-old getting a mastectomy, and she's waiting on a 34-year-old to call her to answer if she will receive chemotherapy before or after her surgery.

When she starts her official 12-hour work day as women's health navigator for Baptist Memorial Hospital of North Mississippi, she'll come in the early morning and check her patients for the day — a list she puts together a week in advance. She'll drop in for chemotherapy appointments, doctor checkups and consultations. After giving medical care for more than four decades, Dent plans to retire in November.

Dent began her career caring for patients in their youngest days in the neonatal intensive care unit and labor and delivery. She's worked in recovery rooms as a head nurse and as a director of nursing. She came from Columbus in 2014 to be the nursing educator at Baptist of North Mississippi, commuting from her home in Tupelo and staying sometimes four nights a week in Oxford. She had merely cared for cancer patients after surgery until she found herself on the other side of the stethoscope after her annual mammogram came back abnormal.

"Having it myself has really taught me so much about the feelings that you go through when you hear that diagnosis," she said. "The fears, the anxiety, the confusion."

Her primary responsibility as a nurse navigator is to assess and educate her patients about any



PHOTO BY: OLIVIA MORGAN

Women's health navigator Wanda Dent speaks with oncologist Dr. Ryan Yates about a patient's pathology results.

barriers in the way of their treatment and to be a consistent face through their continuum of care.

Dent's first introduction to her patients comes when a mammogram or scan comes back abnormal. She will begin their relationship by talking them through the biopsy process. She will watch for pathology results, then contact the physicians and nurse practitioners to set up care options. When the time comes for surgery, she drops by for a visit, if possible, but she always calls or sends a message, watching for more pathological reports that will determine the length and intensity of further treatment. She is there for the first oncology visit, the first radiation oncology visit and routine checkups throughout treatment. She puts a name on the illness ravaging their bodies, often diagramming and mapping out just where the mass is and how to reach it.

This was how she crossed paths with Sarah Smith, an X-ray technician, a mother and, now, a breast cancer survivor.

"I can tell her anything," Smith said of her nurse navigator.

Smith was first diagnosed in 2014 with ductal carcinoma in situ or DCIS. She underwent a full mastectomy and reconstruction, removing the abnormal tissue to prevent any possible recurrence. Then, in 2016, she found a new lump while in the shower after returning from a trip with her family to the Sugar Bowl. She came to lean firmly on a network of support, including her husband, Cliff, 7-year-old son, Sterling, and the team of nurses and doctors who would become as close as family during treatment.

"We started chemo, and the first six treatments were pretty tough, big drugs," she said. "Then, we did radiation in September of 2016 every day for 33 days, 7 minutes

on the table before work, and then I went back to work."

Some days were better than others. She cried tears of loss when she had to shave her head before her son's soccer game. She cried tears of joy when the boys on the team took the field in pink socks. She promises to well up this Friday night when she calls the coin toss at Lafayette High School's "Pink-Out" game.

From diagnosis to survivorship, she credits the strength of her support system and the ear of her nurse navigator.

"I had chemo, and then I had this anxiety: Am I about to run to the bathroom? Am I going to throw up? Am I going to have these little aliens in my head?" she said. "I didn't know how it was going to treat me."

She said that having familiar faces in the hospital was key in her re-

SEE DENT PAGE 5

THE OLE MISS 2017-2018 YEARBOOK

CLASS PORTRAITS

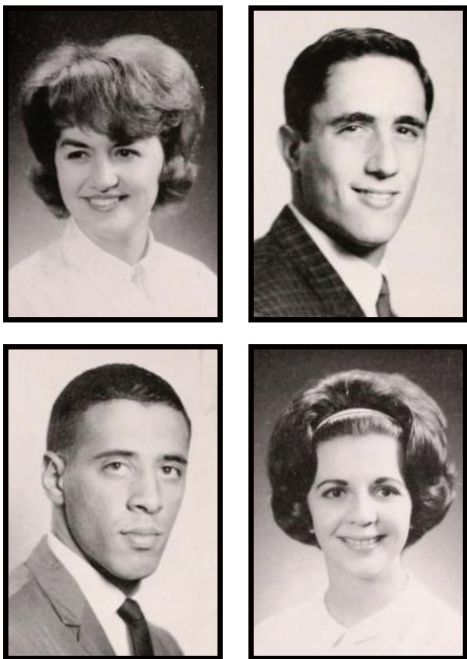
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DENT*continued from page 4*

covery and her feeling at home after relocating from her native town of Greenville only months before she was diagnosed.

Smith is just one of more than 100 patients whom Dent oversees and one of the 252,710 cases of breast cancer diagnosed every year, according to a representative of the American Cancer Society.



Dent, who also oversees the free mammogram program and manages the assistance funds from the Susan G. Komen organization, the C.A.R.E. Walk, said that breast cancer is the leading cancer being treated at Baptist. The American Cancer Association recognizes breast cancer as the second leading cause of cancer death in women, behind only lung cancer.

Early detection with risk reduction is the key to being cured of breast cancer. Factors like age, family history, alcohol usage, hormone therapy and sedentary lifestyles can increase chances in all women.

However, the American Cancer Society recently changed its policy on mammogram frequency from starting at age 40 to starting at age 45 and getting annual scans

until the age of 54. Guidelines from most physician organizations, such as the American Society of Breast Cancer Surgeons and the National Comprehensive Cancer, still recommend that all women over the age of 40 get annual breast cancer exams.

Dent and Smith can both attest that proactivity in scanning can be life-saving. Both women would not have been scanned under the ACS's new recommendation at the time of their diagnoses.

Smith said her apprehension about family history saved her life when she had an early mammogram at the age of 36.

"I have some friends who say, 'My insurance doesn't cover it until I'm 40,'" she said. "But I look at them and think, 'What's the cost of a mammogram to you? Worth seeing your child grow?'"

Dent, who was diag-

nosed at the age of 56, continued to have annual mammograms after the age of 54, noting that skipping a year could have cost her her life.

"I had my mammogram every year without fail, and I had a perfect mammogram in 2013, and my mammogram in 2014 showed a small abnormal micro-calcification," Dent said.

Smith said she still does a self-breast examination on a set day every month, a tip handed down to her by Dent, who advocates for regular breast examinations for all women with any family history or increased risk factors.

In the month of October, Dent typically speaks on breast cancer awareness for more than 20 groups, but this year, she has taken only five or six speaking engagements. After returning from a mission trip to Cuba on Nov. 1, she will retire after 44 years in the nursing profession and countless lives touched.

"It seems like there is something every day: a kind word or a thank you or just seeing a patient relax or helping educate them so they can make a good decision by participating in their care," she said.

DOWNTOWN*continued from page 1*

Among the propositions that would affect Ole Miss students would be a new requirement that businesses, even if they have an Alcohol Beverage Control permit, would need to get an event permit from the city and patrons would have to be 21 or older to stay after a certain hour, for private parties. This would allow the Oxford police to have more presence and control at date parties and swaps when they haven't in the past.

"Anyone that has an ABC license does not have to have (an event permit)," East said. "There are a lot of swaps or private parties that will hold 500 or 600 people, and we have no idea this is going on. We are not prepared."

After the meeting, Tannehill said East made a lot of wise recommendations, but the board will focus on a lot of the "minor issues that will be easy to implement."

"We've met with the bar owners as a group and gotten a lot of input from them and will continue to meet with them individually," Tannehill said. "We're going to try to come up with a solution that makes it a safer place to be, puts some responsibility on the bar owners and allows us to keep Oxford the great family community that it is."

'I can tell her anything.'

Sarah Smith, a two-time survivor of breast cancer

Homecoming Queen 2017

Christina Lawler

Congratulations!

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Mom and Dad

10 arrested after student dies from hazing at LSU

Ten people will be arrested on hazing charges in the death of a Louisiana State University fraternity pledge after a night of drinking, LSU officials said Wednesday.

One of the 10 suspects — Matthew Alexander Naquin, 19, of Boerne, Texas — also faces a negligent homicide charge in the death last month of 18-year-old Maxwell Gruver, a freshman from Roswell, Georgia, LSU said in a statement.

An autopsy showed Gruver's blood-alcohol content level at the time of his death was 0.495, which is more than six times the legal limit for driving, East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner Beau Clark said Wednesday.

Eight of the suspects are LSU students and were active members of the fraternity, according to university spokesman Ernie Ballard. He said all 10 are expected to be jailed Wednesday once they turn themselves in to LSU police. The hazing charges against all 10 suspects, whose ages range from 18 to 21, are misdemeanors.

LSU President F. King Alexander said in a statement that the arrests "underscore that the ramifications of hazing can be devastating." "Maxwell Gruver's family will mourn his loss for the rest of their lives, and several other students are now



PHOTO BY: HILARY SCHEINUK | THE ADVOCATE VIA AP

Louisiana State University police are investigating a hazing incident at an on-campus fraternity house, Phi Delta Theta, after a student was brought to the hospital overnight and later died last month, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Phi Delta Theta has been suspended by the university and its national chapter, according to LSU president F. King Alexander.

facing serious consequences - all due to a series of poor decisions," Alexander added.

Gruver died at a Baton Rouge hospital on Sept. 14 after Phi Delta Theta members found him lying on a couch at the fraternity house and couldn't tell if he was breathing, police said.

Clark, the coroner, concluded Gruver died of acute alcohol intoxication with aspiration. The autopsy found Gruver inhaled vomit and

other fluid into his lungs, said Clark. He ruled the death an accident.

Witnesses told police that the fraternity's pledges were forced to drink to excess on the night before Gruver's death, during a game or initiation ritual called "Bible Study" that required pledges to drink if they incorrectly answered questions about the fraternity.

A witness told police that Gruver was "highly intoxicated" when fraternity members laid him on a couch and left the house sometime early on Sept. 14. Around 11 a.m., members found Gruver still on the couch with a weak pulse, police said. Two people drove him to a hospital, where he died later that day.

The fraternity's national office said it closed the chapter after Gruver's death.

The nine suspects facing only hazing charges are Zachary Castillo, of Gretna; Sean Paul Gott, of Lafayette; Sean Pennison, Mandeville; Hudson Kirkpatrick, Baton Rouge; Elliott Eaton, of New Orleans; Patrick Forde, of Westwood, Massachusetts; Nicholas Tavlli, of Cypress, Texas; Zachary Hall, of Charlotte, North Carolina; and Ryan Isto, who is from Canada. Gott and Forde aren't enrolled at LSU, according to Ballard.

Hall's attorney, David Bourland, said his 21-year-old client didn't participate in hazing activities or provide anyone with alcohol on the night before Gruver died. Hall, a junior who lived at the fraternity house, is in a "deep depression" over his friend's death, his attorney said.

"But my client did not vio-

late any law or code of conduct at LSU," Bourland added. "He did not do anything that could have contributed to this unfortunate, tragic accident."

East Baton Rouge District Attorney Hillar Moore said his office will present evidence to a grand jury and could seek additional charges against some of the 10 suspects. Other individuals also could face charges in the case, Moore added.

Several pledges told police they received a group text message stating there would be 'Bible Study' at the house" at 10 p.m. on Sept. 13. Investigators seized a cellphone belonging to the fraternity member who sent the group text message about the "Bible Study" session.

Police executed search warrants at the fraternity house and at Gruver's dorm room. Among the items seized from the fraternity house were a duffel bag filled with beer cans, bottles of liquor, a glass smoking pipe, a "pledge test," cleaning supplies and two strands of white knotted rope, according to a search warrant return.

Police also found devices that may have captured video footage inside the fraternity house "during the times of the events," a police affidavit says.

"Investigators also learned that there were several text messages sent about (Gruver's) condition," the affidavit said.

Police also obtained a warrant to examine Gruver's phone so they could see who he called or texted before his death.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards asked leaders of the state's higher-education system to review their campus policies on hazing, alcohol and drugs following Gruver's death.

"One loss of life to hazing or drug and alcohol abuse is too many, and I know that you share my very serious concerns," Edwards wrote in a letter dated Sept. 21, asking them to report their findings and recommendations to his office by Oct. 29.

A Penn State fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, and 14 of its members face criminal charges over the death of a pledge who was fatally injured after an alcohol-related hazing ritual in February. Sophomore Tim Piazza of Lebanon, New Jersey, became highly intoxicated and later fell several times, including down a long set of basement steps, suffering severe head and abdominal injuries that led to his death two days later.

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Homecoming week features events such as a mechanical shark, games and free popcorn, waffles and snow cones for students to enjoy on Galtney-Lott Plaza. Frank King, a comedian, writer and suicide prevention expert, also spoke at the Ford Center on Monday.

Homecoming queen: *Christina Lawler*

RACHEL ISHEE
NEWS EDITOR

Christina Lawler has dedicated her last three years at Ole Miss to bettering the campus and promoting the university, and on last month, all of the dedication paid off when she was elected homecoming queen.

“A flood of emotions hit me when I realized that I had just won homecoming queen,” Lawler said, recalling the night she was elected. “I’m not someone who typically gets pretty emotional, and I immediately burst into tears and was just so overwhelmed with excitement.”

Based on her admiration for the university and all of the memories she’s accumulated since she’s been at the university, Lawler decided to run for homecom-

ing queen as a way to give back even more to the Ole Miss family.

“I chose to run for homecoming queen because of the love that I have for Ole Miss and our community,”

Lawler said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better past few years here.”

She said she’s had the time of her life meeting different people on campus and making the most of campus events.

“This place has given me everything academically and socially, and I am just so thankful I made the decision to come here,” Lawler said.

Although Ole Miss was not her first option when deciding on a university to attend, once she visited the campus, the Denver native knew that it was the place for her.

“I originally had my eyes set on another school since it was a little closer to home,” Lawler said.

But a spring break trip to Oxford with her parents quickly changed her mind.

“We flew into the Memphis airport and were driving to campus, and we

turned onto Jackson Avenue, and I told my parents as we were literally passing the Walmart that I knew that I was going to come to school here.”

For the remainder of her visit, she convinced her

parents to set up extra appointments with advisers to guarantee her acceptance.

“I cancelled all the other school visits for that week, and we stayed an extra day in Oxford, and I was sold,” Lawler said. “My parents and I always laugh that I had the feeling about the school even before the tour, and I think a lot of people can say that once they get to Oxford, they just know that Ole Miss is where they want to go.”

Katie Morgan, a senior accounting major, met Lawler her sophomore year through mutual friends after transferring to Ole Miss.

“There are so many things I love about Christina, but the thing I admire most about her is her ability to make people laugh in all situations,” Morgan said.

“Christina is both silly and serious, almost always having a smile on her face with a very down-to-earth mindset.”

Morgan said she believes it’s Lawler’s selflessness that makes her so deserving of her new title.

“Christina is a great homecoming queen because not only does she love Ole Miss, but she loves to serve Ole Miss. She has been involved on campus since her freshman year and has only been increasing her campus presence as she’s gotten more involved,” Morgan said.

“Christina enjoys meeting

new people through her involvement and maintains these relationships, and I know as homecoming queen she will continue to make a lasting impact on these people as well as our university as a whole.”

Lawler said she enjoyed running for homecoming queen, although this campaign was not her first time participating in student elections.

“The whole experience of running was a lot of fun. I have helped with a few campaigns before, but it was very different being on my own actual campaign,” she said. “It was a lot of work and full of a lot of

decision-making, but I had the best support system with me throughout the entire experience.”

Lawler credits her close friends and family with being the reason she enjoyed her campaign so much.

“I couldn’t have done it without them, and I think they are the reason that made my campaign so much fun,” she said.

A senior public policy leadership major and business administration minor, Lawler plans to attend law school in the fall.



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

“This place has given me everything academically and socially, and I am just so thankful I made the decision to come here.”

- Christina Lawler

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Mr. Ole Miss:

Tucker Fox

JOHN TOULOUPIIS
STAFF WRITER

Tucker Fox was born into the Ole Miss family.

Even though the newly elected Mr. Ole Miss was born and raised in Memphis, Fox knows Oxford. He traveled down for game days with his family as a kid.

The senior managerial finance and banking and finance double major entered Ole Miss as a bright-eyed freshman with dreams of walking on to the golf team.

"I had offers from small D2 and D3 schools, but I just knew Ole Miss was the place for me," Fox said. "I wanted to give it a shot here."

The scratch golfer tried walking on the first couple years of college but ended up not earning a spot on the team.

"I really wanted it to work," Fox said. "It was definitely God closing one door for another one to open."

During his junior year, Fox applied for Ole Miss Ambassadors. Previously an ambassador for his high school, Fox

said he loved the prospect of sharing a place he loved with strangers.

"It was extremely rewarding sharing my Ole Miss home with people who had never been here before," Fox said.

After talking with Martin Fisher, the associate director of admissions for orientation and campus visit programs who runs Ambassadors and orientation, Fox decided to become an orientation leader.

During his summer as orientation leader, Fox learned lots from his new experiences.

"It was one of the coolest experiences of my entire life, getting to see all the different kids coming here," Fox said. "Some kids have it all figured out and grow up all Ole Miss, and others are stepping foot on campus for the first time."

After announcing his candidacy, Fox said he set out to build the best campaign and team possible, organizing his campaign around the theme of Ole Miss family.

"We have so many students from all types of backgrounds, but we all love Ole Miss," Fox said.

Reaching out to build a winning team was difficult for Fox, who never ran for anything like this before.

"I didn't want this to be self-serving. I wanted people who believed in the platform and what they were saying," Fox said.

Without the help of Karson Nelson, Fox's campaign manager, Fox said he never would've run.

"I wasn't going to run unless I got Karson. She had the experience and knew what to do. I trusted her completely," Fox said.

Nelson, a senior public policy major, became friends with Fox during an Ole Miss baseball game.

"Leaving that day, I considered him a great friend that I had a personal relationship with," Nelson said. "That's what led me to jump at his invitation to be his campaign manager. He made me feel like my opinions and outlooks were valued and understood."

While Nelson served as the organizational leader, Kelsea White operated as the workhorse for the campaign team.

"I was part of Tucker's core



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

campaign group. I continuously reached out to people and asked for their support for Tucker," White, a junior accounting major, said. "I helped him in any way that I could, from standing by the sign and actively campaigning to just being there as support."

Together with White and Nelson, Fox ran and won on the principles of the Ole Miss family, a theme he believes is here to stay.

"It's not my idea. It's not an original. It's something that

was before I was here and will still be used after I'm gone," Fox said.

In keeping with past traditions, Fox and Smith are finalizing plans for their big project to help give back to the school.

"To be able to do this with Savannah Smith is definitely a dream come true," Fox said. "I want to help encourage and unify people. I just want to continue to treat people with love and kindness, because that's what the Ole Miss family is about."

Miss Ole Miss:

Savannah Smith

MADDIE MCGEE
NEWS EDITOR

At Saturday's homecoming game against Vanderbilt, Savannah Smith will make her debut as Miss Ole Miss. Smith, a public policy and journalism double major from Corinth, captured 80 percent of the vote during the personality elections.

"It was a Tuesday, which is one of my favorite days of the week," Smith said. "It was just so surreal. It kind of felt like I was in a dream, and I was with all of the people that I loved, and I saw it happening, but it took a moment to process."

A few weeks removed from election night, Smith said her win still doesn't feel real.

"The last few weeks have been so humbling," she said. "We've gotten to celebrate people and articulate that it's not just my Ole Miss — it's ours."

Smith said her friends convinced her to run for the title.

"One friend in particular approached me and said, 'Look, Sav, I think you're really going to regret it if you don't,'" she said. "I just really thought about how I love this place, and

if I was going to succeed or fail here, it would be a great experience either way. I love and I trust these people. I think after I came to realize that, I sat down one night and just wrote out all of the reasons why I want to do this."

After she decided to run, she selected a team of close friends to help run her campaign.

"I think that my time at the university has been so defined by the core people that are in my life," she said. "I talked to them and asked them if they would really want to help do this, and they were all onboard, and after that, it all sort of just began to grow into something real."

Smith ran on a platform called "Our Ole Miss," which didn't focus solely on her but on the people at the university as a whole.

"One night, I was sitting in the Honors College, and we had been talking about all of these things about making people feel seen and heard and appreciated and that they had a seat at the table and that they were important," she said. "I was thinking I just had to articulate what all of this meant, and the song 'Not Mine Anyway' came on."

Smith said the song inspired her to create her "Our Ole Miss" platform.

"From day one, I said the only way I could do this is if it were something that was bigger than me or any single one person," she said. "It's about taking ownership over the fact that this is our school, and these are our good parts, our bad parts; this is the room that we have to grow, and these are the ways we have grown."

In addition to working to see what everyone on campus has to offer the university, Smith will collaborate with Mr. Ole Miss winner Tucker Fox to create a service project to debut later this year.

Becoming a Rebel was part of a family tradition for Smith.

"When I thought of college, this is the place I always had in the back of my mind," she said. "This is where my grandparents went to school, where my parents went to school, and I grew up coming to games in the Grove and always hearing stories about their time here."

Ole Miss ended up being the only school Smith applied to, and she arrived on campus eager to get involved.

In addition to winning the



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

title of Miss Ole Miss, Smith serves as a co-director of the Ole Miss Big Event, the vice president of the Columns Society, an orientation leader and an Ole Miss ambassador. She is also a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and Chi Omega sorority.

Smith said her favorite Ole Miss memories include big experiences like the 2014 win against Alabama and smaller moments like time spent with friends.

"There have just been many sweet days," she said. "I have this little breakfast club thing

with my friends, and we always go to Bottletree (Bakery). We all ride around and listen to music, and it's just so fun."

Smith said it is the people that make her love her time at Ole Miss.

"Being a Rebel has a lot of heart to it," she said. "I think that we are strong and resilient and have a broken past with so much potential to have a bright future. I think that we love deeply, and we really, truly care for one another. I don't think that people are like this anywhere else in the world."



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BAND
continued from page 1

Though the facets of the band may change, its feel and atmosphere have been maintained through the generations. To be involved in the Ole Miss band is to be included in two unique things – the Oxford game day experience and the family feel of being part of a unit of student musicians.

“I loved my time in The Pride of the South. Just yesterday, I went to get lunch and saw two people I was in band with back then,” Aaron Bailey, a member from 2001-2005, said. “Being in Oxford, you get to see a lot of people you remember. Most of my friends were in band when I was in school, and Oxford is one of those places you don’t want to leave unless you really have to.”

Bailey moved out of Oxford

upon his graduation to be a band director at Olive Branch High School but moved back to town over the summer to work as the assistant band director at Oxford High School.

The Pride of the South practices Monday through Friday up until the first home game, dropping Wednesday practice and holding Friday rehearsal only on home game weekends. The group learns up to five shows a season, many times juggling multiple at once. A normal day’s practice includes rehearsing stand tunes, the Grove routine, pregame, halftime and the parade block, which is used for marching into the stadium and in the annual Oxford Christmas Parade. The conditions are typically hot, damp and mosquito-infested, yet The Pride of the South has experienced an upward trend in its numbers.

“We are fortunate to have about 100 new members ev-

ery year, and although it can be quite an adjustment from high school or junior college, they are able to quickly adapt and feel at home due to the effort, guidance and compassion of our returning members,” Randy Dale, director of athletic bands, said. “The veterans are really the ones who help the new students with the fast-paced environment of Pride of the South.”

Students like Kayla Luke agree. A freshman majoring in computer science, she views the Ole Miss band as a safe place in the midst of demanding coursework.

“Pride of the South has already helped me be more outgoing, because I am surrounded by so many people all the time but know only a couple personally,” Luke said. “It’s taught me to have more confidence in myself even though I’m just a freshman.”

Transfer students who ar-

rive at Ole Miss with experience in community college or other university bands have an adjustment to make, just as the freshmen do, since each program is run differently and has different expectations for its members.

“After adjusting to how much bigger a university band is compared to my community college, I’ve realized that The Pride of the South is like a family,” Drew Fisher, a junior transfer student majoring in music education, said. “The staff and students all care for each other and look out for each other. Having that family has made transferring here so much better.”

The band does not discriminate based on race, major, hometown, sexual orientation, instrument choice or any other factor. It is precisely its collection of various walks of life that makes the Rebel band full of vibrant color.

“The biggest draws of the band are the sense of place it provides, the family atmosphere and the friends you keep for 15-plus years,” Bailey said. “You have 300 people you wouldn’t have gotten to know otherwise to build a school family and support system with, right on the first day of school.”

You can catch The Pride of the South behind the Grove stage on game day about an hour and a half before kickoff, on the field during pregame and during halftime as well as in the stands in the time between. Enjoy the iconic red jackets and the faint whisper of the Ole Miss fight song that can be heard almost anywhere in the stadium. And if you stick around until the bitter end, you can swing in time with the football team and cheerleaders as the band plays the sweet tradition of the alma mater.

THE PRIDE OF THE SOUTH

A history of the Ole Miss band through the years as it transitioned directors, uniforms, marches and musicians. Though it has been through many changes, its traditions and place in the Ole Miss family remain the same.

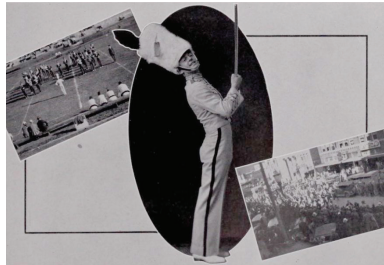
1928



THE OLE MISS, 1929

The band is created with only 29 members. The SEC did not exist yet.

1934



THE OLE MISS, 1934

The Rebel band did not own full dress uniforms until 1934. They were purchased by funds solicited by the general student body.

1958

The Pride of the South performed at the 1958 World Music Festival in Kerkade, Holland. It won first place with distinction in both concert and marching competition.

1966



THE OLE MISS, 1966

The band travels to Europe during the summer with the concert singers and select theater students. Band members studied and performed at the world’s leading cultural centers.

1970

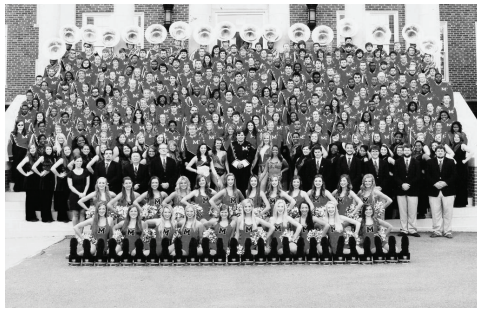


PHOTO COURTESY: AMAZON

“Bridge Over Troubled Water” and “Boogie Down” and gave way to popular classics like “Sail” and “Sweet Caroline.”

2014

The Pride of the South reaches its largest enrollment in school history at 315 members.



THE OLE MISS, 2014

2017



PHOTO BY: TAYLOR TEEL

Information found on The Pride of the South website

NewsWatch
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Football 101: A lifestyles editor’s perspective

JONATHAN GIBSON

ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

GRAYSON WEIR

SPORTS EDITOR

This week, sports editor Grayson Weir sat down with Jonathan Gibson, assistant lifestyles editor, to discuss his perspective on the current Ole Miss football season and the general sports atmosphere in Oxford. Below is a transcript from that interview.

Grayson: Thanks for taking the time to do this interview, Jonathan. I know you’re a busy guy.

Jonathan: It’s really my pleasure, Grayson. I always love hearing the sound of

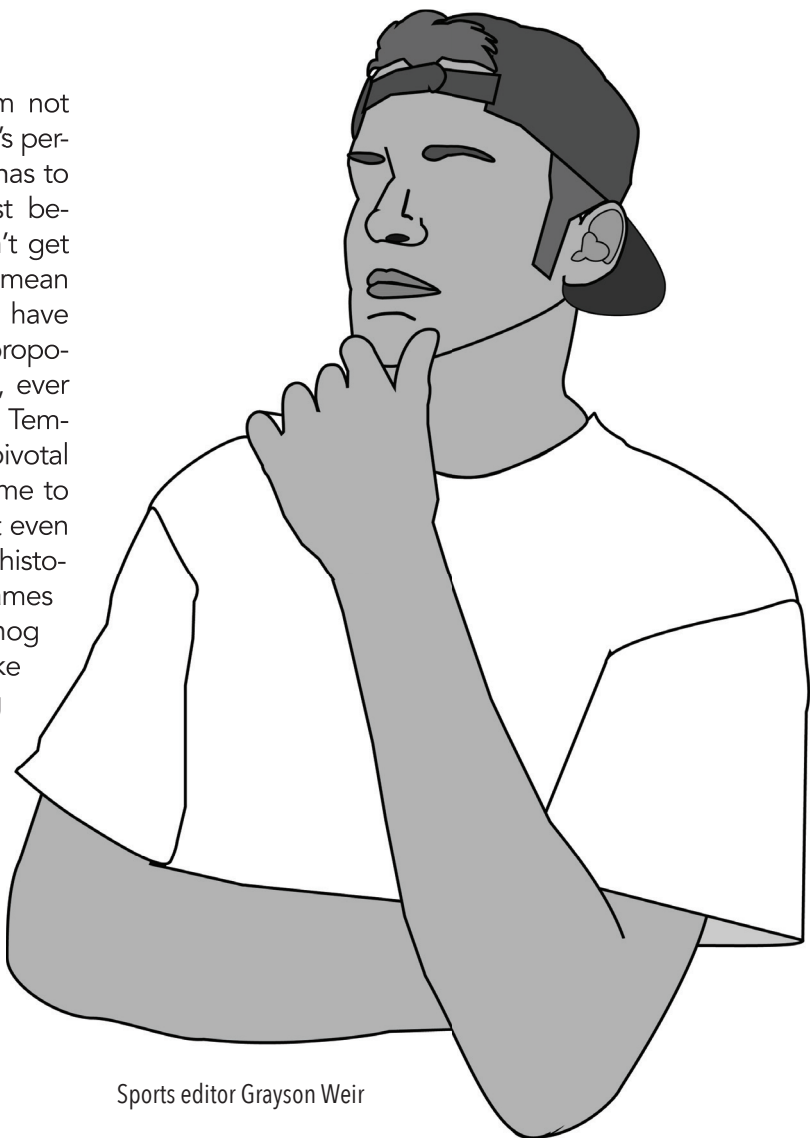
my own voice and watching myself on camera.

G: (laughter) Well, this will run in print, but yes, I know that feeling.

J: (papers rustling) Oh, I see. Right ... OK, yeah, I guess my agent told me the wrong thing. I see now, “print interview.” Got it.

G: Right ... Well, I guess we’ll jump straight in. Here’s our first question for you: Despite a fairly low rushing performance, Vanderbilt’s running back Ralph Webb showed his talent against No. 5 Georgia last week. How has the unit prepared for Webb and a presumable emphasis on the run game?

J: Well, Grayson, I’m not sure what Ralph Webb’s performance during rush has to do with anything. Just because someone doesn’t get into a fraternity doesn’t mean he’s a bad player. But I have always been a huge proponent of the run game, ever since it first came out. Temple Run was definitely pivotal in bringing the run game to the general public, but even further back in game history, we’ve seen run games like Sonic the Hedgehog and Super Mario make great strides in helping people practice not only their running but also jumping, ducking and sliding. I’m not sure whether Webb is well-versed in run games like these, but it’s safe to say Vanderbilt has placed an emphasis on them.



Sports editor Grayson Weir

G: Right. Um ... The loss to Auburn last weekend left the Ole Miss faithful disappointed, but the coaching staff was able to find positives in the second half. Coming in to a potentially season-changing game against Vanderbilt, what’s the most important focus for head coach Matt Luke?

J: I’ve been saying this for years: The team will really need to amp up its energy and make sure it’s dominating the court from the moment the game starts. Once that shot clock gets going, the players can’t let themselves get distracted.

Go hard in the paint, and take home the gold — that’s what I always say. I made that up myself. My dad always told me, “If you don’t clean up your room before your mother gets home, you’re going to be grounded for a month,” but I like to think what he really meant was “Never stop trying your best and aiming for those goals, and don’t drop any passes at the end of the fourth quarter. I’m proud of you, and you are the best son in the world.” That’s the best advice I can give Luke — get that room cleaned up.

G: Houston Nutt just refiled his previously dismissed lawsuit against the university. How might this affect the NCAA’s decision regarding Ole Miss’ recruiting violations?

J: First of all, I don’t understand why Ole Miss was recruiting violations in the first place. There are so many other things you can recruit. Why would you pick a violation? To me, that seems counterproductive. But the NBA’s decision probably

SEE FOOTBALL 101 PAGE 13

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15 Cupolas
16 ___ Sad, Serbia
17 Heedless
19 Custardy dessert
20 General Powell
21 Tristan's love
23 Charged with a crime
26 Greek goddess of justice
27 Staggered
28 Bury
29 ___ Bulba
30 Bed down
31 Binges, briefly
34 Computer operator
35 Cut down
36 Gators kin
37 Sleep stage
38 Doled (out)
39 Public square
40 Egyptian god of the underworld
42 Defeated
43 Seaport in New

DOWN

1 Cabinet dept.
2 Golly!
3 Old cloth
4 Ambiguous
5 Confused
6 Like a rock
7 Some Feds
8 Legal thing
9 Aided
10 Disclose
11 Cooperate
12 Dodge
13 Fungal infection
18 Thorny flowers
22 Word in an octagon

Zealand

45 Snake
46 Draw out
47 Seashore
48 Like ___ not
49 Make impure
54 Rock's Motley ___
55 Enthusiasm
56 Hog-wild
57 Bridge postiion
58 Silk dye
59 Simple partner

SOLUTION TO 10.12.2017 PUZZLE

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23 Pianist Rubinstein
24 Put an end to
25 Formal
26 On ___-to-know basis
28 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
30 Take hold
32 Group of 12
33 Barely enough
35 Legacy
36 Empty language
38 Calf-length skirt
39 In itself

41 Concealed
42 English photographer
43 Free of frost
44 Extreme
45 Conductor Georg
47 Curse
50 Small team
51 ___ Darya (Asian river)
52 Rocky pinnacle
53 Barely manage, with "out"

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Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

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HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

CHALLENGING

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3	1	4	5	7	6	9	2	8
8	7	2	3	9	1	4	5	6
5	8	1	6	4	3	2	9	7
9	3	7	1	2	8	6	4	5
4	2	6	7	5	9	3	8	1

FOOTBALL 101
continued from page 12

won't be affected by it. If the NAACP can't see past this lawsuit, what good is it? The NSAID has to be unbiased and just in its decisions. If the NASDAQ can't come to terms with it, where does it end? The ball is in the NCIS' court. Wait, what was the question, again?

G: Vanderbilt's secondary, which has proved fairly sound, will be tested against a potent passing attack. How can Shea Patterson and the offense exploit the Commodores' defensive backs?

J: I've been saying for years that standardized testing does little to show actual evidence of knowledge in our schools, so I don't know why people are insisting on testing Vanderbilt's secondary school kids. That's like, what, eighth graders? That's just unacceptable to me. And I think Shea Patterson and the offense will do just fine. I heard some of

their music on Spotify, I think. Is Commodore their record label or something?

G: Ole Miss' offensive line, on paper, wins the battle up front. If the big uglies aren't able to get a push, how can Phil Longo's offense succeed?

J: I believe in equal rights for all. Every person deserves a push, no matter how big and ugly he is. Imagine a world without being pushed on a swing or pushing it to the limit. That's not a world I want to live in.

G: You do know we're talking about football, right?

J: (inaudible)

G: I'm sorry — what was that?

(Loud crash. Papers rustling)

J: Oh. Right. Football ... Which one is that again?

G: I just —

J: That's the one with the goalies and the guys with amazing hair, right?

G: That's soccer.

J: No, I think that's a middle school dance with oldies music.

G: A sock hop?

J: No, that's the game you play on the playground with chalk and boxes on the ground.

G: Hopscotch?

J: No, thank you — I don't drink.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS BY: EMILY HOFFMAN

Assistant lifestyles editor Jonathan Gibson

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Expungement of Criminal Misdemeanors

- Former Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Practiced at his privately owned law firm for 45 consecutive years - located at the same place, being the Oxford Square, Downtown, Oxford, Mississippi.
- Taught the Mississippi DUI Law and 5 different Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure courses each and every semester at the University of Mississippi for 29 consecutive years.
- Former Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for over 6 years.
- Former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for 8 years.
- A Founding Member of the National College for DUI Defense conducted at Harvard Law School.
- Selected as one of the Top 50 DUI Attorneys in Mississippi by the National Advocacy for DUI Defense.
- Selected as one of the Top 10 Best Attorneys of Mississippi in for Client Satisfaction Award by the American Institute of DUI/DWI Attorneys.
- Selected as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Organization.
- Recipient of the DISTINGUISHED AWARD OF MERIT for 1989 from the Mississippi State Bar given to one Attorney in the State each year for outstanding contributions to the practice of law.
- Voted "Best Attorney in Oxford, Mississippi" in the Grove's Choice Awards.
- Former Vice President and President of the Lafayette County Bar Association; member of the Mississippi Bar Association, etc.
- Appointed by the Mississippi State Bar to the Mississippi Commission on Attorney Ethics and Attorney Violations of the Canon of Ethics and All Mandatory Rules concerning the Practice of Law. Occupied the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman.
- A member of the Chancellor's Trust since 1981.
- Member of the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys
- Member of the National League of Renowned Attorneys - Top 1%
- Awarded the United States Congressional Medal of Distinction by RNCC.
- Member of the American Jurist Institute - Top 10 DUI/DWI Attorney for Mississippi

Listing of these previously mentioned areas of practice does not indicate any certification of expertise therein.

EDITOR TO EDITOR

OLE MISS VERSUS VANDERBILT

Cutler Klein, sports editor at the Vanderbilt Hustler, joins The Daily Mississippian sports editor Grayson Weir to discuss Saturday’s homecoming matchup between Ole Miss and Vanderbilt.



CUTLER KLEIN: Vanderbilt got a glimpse of Shea Patterson last season in relief of Chad Kelly in the Commodores’ late-season win over Ole Miss. How has he improved since being thrust into the starter’s job?

GRAYSON WEIR: Shea is still young. He’s still growing, and he’s still learning, especially when it comes to throwing the ball away and not trying to do too much. That being said, between when he took over for Chad in last year’s matchup and today, there’s a colossal difference in his maturity. His talent, athleticism and ability to extend plays have always been there, but his confidence has been growing. With big games, big losses and the constant spotlight under his belt, this is Shea’s team, and no one is going to play harder.

CK: Ole Miss has gone through some tumultuous times this summer and won’t be able to make a postseason bowl this season. How has all of the drama affected the team as well as the attitudes in Oxford surrounding the team?

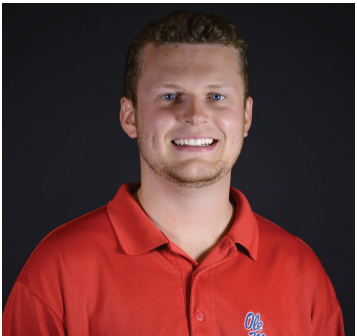
GW: The drama undoubtedly has affected the guys in the locker room and on staff, but it’s in the past. The players have rallied around one another, and the sense of family is prevalent more than ever. At this point, the focus is on football and righting the ship.

CK: Ralph Webb showed some flashes last week of what he can do, despite another low rushing performance. Is Ole Miss preparing to stop the run like the first six of Vanderbilt’s opponents?

GW: Is Ole Miss preparing to stop the run this week? Absolutely. Does it mean it will? Gosh, I hope so. Beyond the big fellas up front, Ole Miss’ ability to tackle ball carriers has been atrocious. Coming out of every weekend, the focus, defensively, has been on wrapping up. And every week, nothing changes. The Rebels’ horrendous run defense (and defense in general) is a glaring concern coming in to Saturday. All we can do is hope is that Webb, who is a powerful back with a high ceiling, has an OK game, not a great one.

CK: After two weeks of double-digit losses, are the Rebels going to be playing this game with a chip on their shoulder?

GW: Undoubtedly. The last two weeks have been ugly, and even the guys admitted that, to a certain degree, their hearts weren’t in it. Between the three straight Ls and last year’s road loss to the Commodores, saying this game means a lot is an understatement.



GRAYSON WEIR: Both teams are looking for their first SEC victory this season, and after Vanderbilt’s loss to No. 5 Georgia last weekend, the Commodore faithful were calling for an offensive overhaul, starting with coordinator Andy Ludwig’s firing. What does this game mean for Ludwig, head coach Derek Mason and the guys in the locker room?

CUTLER KLEIN: Well, I’m not sure if Ludwig is on the hot seat quite yet. There have been some glaring issues with the play-calling and structure of the offense, but it’s a far cry from calls for his job. This game is a great chance for Vanderbilt to show that it is not a bad football team. This is a chance to show that while maybe it is not ready to compete with the SEC elites, it is still pretty good. It’s not a “make or break” game by any means, but it’s a good chance to see what Vanderbilt is really made of.

GW: Vanderbilt averaged 54 rushing yards in its past four games. How will running back Ralph Webb factor into a game against Ole Miss’ 122nd-ranked rushing defense? Is the ground game something that Ludwig will try to establish early on?

CK: Put it this way: If there’s any opportunity this season to get Vanderbilt’s run game going, it’s this game. Having faced some extremely tough run defenses over the last couple of weeks, this is a chance for Webb to get the monkey off his back, although he is not to blame for the run game’s struggles, by any means. The offensive line has yet to get much push on any defense, and the play calls have not worked to their advantage at all. This is a chance for the run game to really take off for the first time.

GW: Having thrown 12 touchdowns and only one interception to this point, quarterback Kyle Shurmur is far and wide the Commodores’ most valuable player. Outside of Shurmur, who is a guy to watch who could step up and be a difference maker?

CK: Look to the opposite side of the ball for Oren Burks to be a leader this Saturday. Over the last few weeks, the defense has not lived up to the hype, and many have seen a strange leadership gap on the team. They did lose two leaders to the NFL this season in Zach Cunningham and Adam Butler, but Burks should be able to step up. In trying times, it’s the leadership that needs to step up, and Burks is a guy that everybody respects and looks up to. Look for Burks to lead by example this weekend and have himself a strong game.

GW: Alabama, Georgia and Florida bulldozed Vanderbilt’s defense for 379 rushing yards per game. The Ole Miss offense has averaged less than 100 yards rushing on the year, but has put up 1792 yards passing. How has the defense been preparing for the SEC-leading air attack? Is a relatively untested secondary up to the task of shutting down the Nasty Wideouts?

CK: Until the Georgia game, Vanderbilt’s secondary had been quite strong. Ryan White and the leaders of that secondary have been a bright spot in an otherwise bleak stretch. They’ve managed to step up and stop some talented quarterbacks and force the opponent to win the game on the ground (which they have been able to do). Now, the spotlight will be on the secondary for the first time in a few weeks, and it’s time for it to be the strong point of the defense. If Ole Miss is forced to run the ball more often than it would like to, then the secondary has done its job well.

GW: What do you think Vanderbilt needs to do to leave Oxford with a victory? Prediction?

CK: If Vanderbilt is to win this game, it needs to finish off its drives on offense with points, give Ralph Webb space to run and make sure it can contain a shifty Shea Patterson. Overall, Vanderbilt should have enough to overpower this Ole Miss Air Raid offense, much like it did last year, and should take this one 27-21.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL PICK 'EM: WEEK 7

As week seven of the college football season approaches, virtually every conference is still up for grabs, and moves can still be made toward a run at the College Football Playoffs. TCU and Washington aim to stay hot on the road at Kansas State and Arizona State, respectively, while teams like Georgia and Alabama should roll over lesser opponents in Missouri and Arkansas.

JOSH GOLLIHAR

ALEX LEARNED

STAFF WRITERS

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NO. 10 AUBURN VERSUS LSU



Alex: Which LSU team will show up? The one that was dominated on both sides of the ball by Troy two weeks ago or the one that held its own and defeated a fairly good Florida team on the road? Even if it's the latter, Auburn is playing too well to slip up against a confused, uncharacteristic LSU team. The way Kerryon Johnson has been running the ball combined with Jarrett Stidham's improved play will present too many problems for a disappointing LSU defense. Also, considering that Auburn boasts the 13th best defense in the country, it could be a very, very long day for LSU. Auburn wins handily.

Josh: Auburn has not won a game in Death Valley since 1999. Baton Rouge owns one of the best home-field advantages in football. This is not the LSU team we have come to know. Its defense lacks stars, and its offense is as one-dimensional as ever. On the other hand, Auburn has its best quarterback since Cam Newton in Jarrett Stidham, and Kerryon Johnson is embarrassing opposing defenses. Auburn's defense has slowed plenty of high-power attacks this season, so LSU's bland offense will not be a problem. Auburn continues to gain momentum with a big road win.

UTAH VERSUS NO. 13 USC

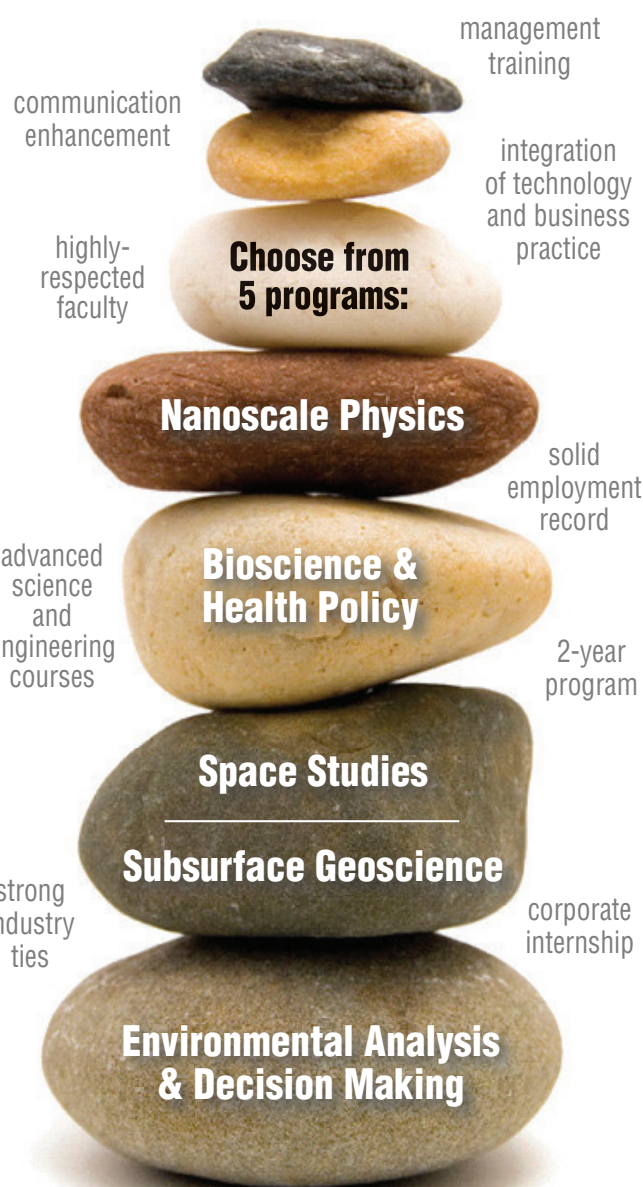


Alex: Coming off a narrow defeat to Stanford last week, the Utes have another tough matchup ahead of them in USC. Following its loss to Washington State two weeks ago, USC had a strong showing against Oregon State. It will look to continue its run toward a Pac-12 championship, and maybe even the College Football Playoff, against a tough and gritty Utah team. Similarly to its match with Stanford, Utah will fall just short in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum as Sam Darnold puts on a show and reminds the country just how good he can be.

Josh: The Pac-12 has produced some of the best football in the country this season. USC is a big reason for that. With a roster plagued by injuries and a lack of talent, the Trojans have placed all their chips on quarterback Sam Darnold to pull a win out of thin air. Ronald Jones II is a great running back, but his influence continues to wane. Expect USC to trail for most of the game. Utah's defense is good. Expect Darnold to throw a couple of turnovers. But with the ball in his hand late, Darnold will pull through when it counts. USC gives its fans another nail-biting win.

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WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



Vanderbilt game a chance for redemption

BILLY SCHUERMAN
STAFF WRITER

After dropping three consecutive road games, Ole Miss football returns to Oxford on Saturday for a chance at redemption. Last season, Vanderbilt's 38-17 victory decimated the Rebels' chance at a bowl game. In similar fashion, this year's 3-3 Commodores could make or break Ole Miss' season yet again.

Since former Vanderbilt head coach James Franklin left for Penn State in 2014, the Commodores' football program has continuously slipped. Franklin led Vanderbilt to its first back-to-back nine-win seasons in school history. Current head coach Derek Mason has not found the same success. He has failed to produce a .500-plus season in Nashville as of yet. And after the Commodores' 59-0 loss to No. 1 Alabama and 45-14 loss to then-No. 5 Georgia, this season is not looking much better. Nonetheless, Ole Miss cannot afford to take any foe lightly.

Vanderbilt's offense boasts a veteran running back in Ralph Webb, who managed three touchdowns and more than 120 yards against the Rebels in 2016. Ole Miss defensive coordinator Wesley McGriff has his work cut out for him. Limiting rush yards will define the game's outcome, and that's bad news for a Rebel defense struggling to contain opposing backs. Case in point: The Rebels surrendered more than 300 yards on the ground to Auburn last weekend. Not



FILE PHOTO

D'Vaughn Pennamon gets past a defender to run the ball downfield during the game against Auburn last Saturday. Auburn won 44-23.

promising.

While the Commodores tore apart Ole Miss on the ground last year, they are no strangers to passing the football, either. This season, Vanderbilt has amassed more than 1,200 total yards in the air, good for 12 touchdowns and a 56 percent completion rate.

Vanderbilt's most threatening receiver, senior Trent Sherfield, is currently eighth in SEC receiving yards, just behind A.J. Brown and DaMarkus Lodge. Last year, Sherfield gashed the Rebels for 72 yards and a touch-

down on only two catches, and with 334 receiving yards this year, that number could grow significantly Saturday.

While the Commodores have lost three consecutive games, they did capture a 14-7 victory over No. 18 Kansas State earlier this fall. On any given day, Vanderbilt has proven it can hang against tougher opponents. With that said, its three most recent opponents have outscored it 142-38. Ole Miss' offense, while streaky, can be explosive and could add to that score

line.

However, the Commodores' impressive secondary could give Shea Patterson and his offense a run for their money. Vanderbilt's defensive backs have only allowed an average of 5.7 yards per pass play and kept opponents to a 54 percent completion rate. Expect the Rebels to rely on running back Jordan Wilkins to open up the game for head coach Matt Luke's talented wideout corps.

Ole Miss leads the SEC in passing yards and has no shortage of dangerous

playmakers out wide. A.J. Brown, D.K. Metcalf, DaMarkus Lodge and Van Jefferson have all shown the type of game-changing ability that makes NFL coaches salivate. This position battle is one to watch.

The Rebels enter Saturday hoping to avenge their 2016 loss and jump-start any sign of life heading into the back half of the season. On the other side of the stadium, Vanderbilt hopes to find a rhythm that might further propel its bowl push. The game is set to kick off at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

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